

13

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/669,058	SHIMIZU, RYU	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	PHUC T DANG	2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to September 24, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>032404</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                             | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

PHUC T. DANG  
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

PD

*Sangphun*

Art Unit: 2818

## DETAILED ACTION

### Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-9 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or reasonably suggests a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising a step of substantially filling the via hole and the interconnect trench with a metal layer; wherein the anti-reflection coating is formed to have its thickness at a central portion of the via hole thinner than a distance between the upper surface of the lower interconnect and a bottom portion of the interconnect trench in the forming the anti-reflection coating, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1.

With respect to claim 5, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or reasonably suggests a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising a step of substantially filling the via hole and the interconnect trench with a metal layer; wherein the interconnect trench is formed with the anti-reflection coating formed in the via hole being covered with the resist layer in the forming the interconnect trench, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 5.

With respect to claim 9, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or reasonably suggests a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising a step of substantially filling the via hole and the interconnect trench with a metal layer; wherein the anti-reflection coating is formed to have its thickness at a central portion of the via hole greater than a

Art Unit: 2818

distance between the upper surface of the lower interconnect and a bottom portion of the interconnect trench in the forming the anti-reflection coating, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 9.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuc T. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1776. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David C. Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and After Final communications.

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Phuc T. Dang

PD



Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2818